



February 13th, 2026

To: House Judiciary Committee
From: Bridget Cooke, Executive Director – Adelante Mujeres
RE: Support Universal Representation HB 4117

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the House Judiciary committee,

My name is Bridget Cooke, I am the Executive Director and Co-founder of Adelante Mujeres. Our services here in Washington County build a stronger community for everyone.

I am writing in support of HB 4117 - Universal Representation and Children's Stability Fund, one of the bills in the Immigrant Justice Package.

Regardless of how often ICE says that their actions are protecting public safety, we know that what we are seeing today has nothing to do with safety. Rather, it is an effort to roll back decades of advances in civil rights. **The vision of a vibrant, pluralistic, multi-faith, and multi-racial community scares the Trump administration, and inspires vicious behavior.**

I applaud your efforts to stop the racial profiling, and the horrific tactics of ICE. HB 4117 is essential to these efforts. We cannot allow Homeland Security to act with impunity.

Adelante Mujeres is a non-profit organization in Washington County with a rich history of engaging Latine immigrants. Adelante Mujeres' mission is to provide holistic education and empowerment opportunities to low-income Latina women and their families to ensure full participation and active leadership in the community. Our organization served over 15,000 individuals in 2025 with comprehensive and life-changing services that span from Education, Microenterprise training, Health Equity, and Leadership programs.

Adelante Mujeres' legal clinic provides immigration legal services and is a Universal Representation navigator, serving immigrant families in Washington County and beyond.

A friend of ours was recently picked up by ICE. His attorney was able to obtain a habeas petition to secure his release. So now, rather than being in ICE detention, he is free. This happened because of Universal Representation. The attorney acted with lightning speed before our friend was transported out of Oregon. He was actually on an ICE bus on his way to the Tacoma Detention Center, but still in Oregon, when the judge granted the petition, and the bus turned around. That's the difference ten minutes makes in someone's life. This ability to respond on the spot depends on funding for U.Rep.

The other part of HB 4117 is the Children's Stability Fund. We are immensely grateful to our local jurisdictions, the cities of Forest Grove, Cornelius and Hillsboro and Washington County for finding funds to help the community. **We now also need our State to provide funding for the community.**

Universal Representation is backed by a broad coalition of immigrant justice advocates, unions, and community-based organizations. I urge you to support these community-led policies to protect the freedom of all Oregonians.

Please vote yes on HB 4117. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bridget Cooke".

Bridget Cooke, Executive Director